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BOOK REVIEWS.

VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY. CALENDAR OF TRANSCRIPTS, Including the Annual report of the Department of Archives and History. John P. Kennedy, State Librarian, Richmond, Va., 1905, pp. 658, xlv (index).

The State Library has rendered a very great service to students of Virginia history by the publication of this admirable catalogue of the public records of the State. This volume covers far wider ground than its title would indicate, for it not only contains a calendar of the transcripts from the English Public Record Office, which are now in the State Library; but also gives a list of the legislative and council journals, and of the great mass of original Colonial and State records, which still remain to us, in spite of so many and so serious losses.

For the first time the wealth of our records is at all properly shown.

The work of preparing this catalogue and calendar was of course very great and the Librarian and his assistants are to be congratulated on the successful result.

The volume begins with a summary of the archives in the Library, and this is followed by the various lists and calendars. Perhaps the best way, in the limited space we have, to give an idea of the character and value of the volume is simply to list its contents. They are as follows: Pages 14-40 Journals and Minutes of Council. Most of these refer to the Council in its executive capacity; but there are records of thirty-five sessions of that body sitting as upper house of Assembly. These are most valuable aids to the study of bi-cameral legislation in Virginia. The earliest Journal of the Upper House (that of 1685, a copy in the *McDonald Papers*) shows that all the legislative methods of an upper chamber had fully developed by that time. The Executive Journals of Council of 1776-83 throw much light on Revolutionary history.

Pages 41-65 Legislative Journals, Minutes, and other cognate records. The lack of Journals of the House of Burgess is the weak point in the collection of records; but it is one which the Library is rapidly filling. It will not be many years before copies of all remaining journals (probably but few, if any, prior to 1680), will be accessible at the Library and in course of time all will be printed. As is well known there are many serious gaps in the printed Journals of the House of Delegates. Fortunately the manuscript Journals seem to be in an unbroken series down to 1809, and the rough minutes come down much farther.

Pages 65-68 give a list of the Journals and other records of the various

Conventions. Pages 68-72 give the executive (gubernatorial) journals, 72-79, Governor's Letter Books, and 79-80 Executive Minutes.

80-81 include various civil lists (justices, &c.), 1775-1860, while 81-93 are devoted to the very valuable military records. These include the ten priceless volumes relating to the conquest of the Northwest Territory, a collection, which is almost unknown, and whose value to the historian can hardly be over estimated. It is to be hoped that this great collection will soon be placed by the Library in such condition as to be easily consulted by students. The original papers were placed in these volumes, probably at the time the commissioners made their final report, and are arranged in a most disorderly way.

94-101 contain lists of the transcripts from the county records, Accomac, Elizabeth City, Essex, Henrico, Old Rappahannock, Surry, York and Warwick (none complete) and a tentative statement of the records existing in the various counties. No accurate statement will ever be obtained in regard to the latter without a special inspection. The county clerks, as a rule, are too indifferent and have too little knowledge of the records in their custody for their reports to be of much value.

The volumes of Auditor's accounts which are in the Library are listed on pages 101-105. The thirty-eight folio volumes covering the period 1775-91 are of great value in regard to the Revolution.

Omitting matters of minor interest, we come to the abstracts and transcripts from English public records, the calendar of which begins on page 112 and continues to the end of the book. Among these is the calendar of the Sainsbury Abstracts, which notes each document in the twenty volumes of that collection. It is true that the documents in this collection are also included in the English Calendar of Colonial State Papers (as far as that publication has been issued), but it should be borne in mind that the Sainsbury Abstracts are on the average, one-third fuller than those published by the English authorities—a very important matter in ascertaining the sense and contents of a paper.

In addition there are calendars of the copies in the McDonald, De Jarnett, Winder and other collections of papers.

It will be seen from this brief summary that this volume must prove an indispensable guide for all work in Virginia history.

THE PLANTING OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA. Prior to the Organization of Winchester Presbytery, December 4, 1794. By James R. Graham, D. D., Pastor Emeritus of the Presbyterian Church in Winchester, Va. Winchester, The Geo. F. Norton Pub. Co., 1904, pp. 167.

No one could have been better adapted than Dr. Graham to write the history of the founding of Presbyterianism in the lower Shenandoah Valley, and in Northern Virginia generally. He has investigated